

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing query messages over a network, comprising:
 - extracting a plurality of queries from a plurality of query messages received from a plurality of users over the network;
 - ~~determining a number of queries included in the plurality of queries;~~
 - ~~associating a current sequence number with the plurality of queries;~~
 - creating a first request message including the plurality of queries, a first sequence number, and state information describing each query ~~equal to the current sequence number and a first message count equal to the number of queries;~~
 - sending the request message to a search engine;
 - receiving a response message from the search engine, the response message including a plurality of replies, each reply generated in response to a query, a second sequence number, and state information describing each query ~~a second message count, a third sequence number and a third message count;~~
 - creating a plurality of reply messages from the plurality of replies; and
 - sending the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users over the network.

2-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining a message latency associated with the first sequence number.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said determining a message latency includes:
 - updating a request timestamp based on the request message;
 - updating a response timestamp based on the response message; and

comparing the request timestamp and the response timestamp.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 5, further comprising:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
updating the response timestamp based on the additional response message.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a query count based on the request message;
updating a reply count based on the response message; and
comparing the query count and the reply count.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
updating the reply count based on the additional response message.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a response count based on the response message; and
comparing the response count to a predetermined response count.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
updating a response count based on the additional response message.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A system for processing query messages over a network, comprising: a first network interface coupled to a first network;
a second network interface coupled to a second network;
at least one processor coupled to the first network interface and the second network interface; and
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including instructions adapted to be executed by the processor to:
extract a plurality of queries from a plurality of query messages received from a plurality of users over the first network interface;
~~determine a number of queries included in the plurality of queries;~~
~~associate a current sequence number with the plurality of queries;~~
create a first request message including the plurality of queries, a first sequence number, and state information describing each query ~~equal to the current sequence number and a first message count first message count equal to the number of queries;~~
send the request message to a search engine over the second network interface;
receive a response message from the search engine over the second network interface, the response message including a plurality of replies, each reply generated in response to a query, a second sequence number, and state information describing each query a second message count, a third sequence number, and a third message count;
create a plurality of reply messages from the plurality of replies; and
send the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users over the first network interface.

12. **(Original)** The system of claim 11, wherein the first network and the second network are the same network.

13-14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, wherein the instructions are further adapted to:

determine a message latency associated with the first sequence number, including:

update a request timestamp based on the request message,
update a response timestamp based on the response message, and
compare the request timestamp and the response timestamp;
receive an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
update the request timestamp based on the additional response message.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, wherein the instructions are further adapted to:

determine a message latency associated with the first sequence number, including:
update a query count based on the request message,
update a reply count based on the response message, and
compare the query count and the reply count;
receive an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
update the reply count based on the additional response message.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, wherein the instructions are further adapted to:

determine a message latency associated with the first sequence number, including:
update a response count based on the response message, and
compare the response count to a predetermined response count;
receive an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
update a response count based on the additional response message.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium including instructions adapted to be executed by at least one processor to implement a method for processing query messages over a network, the method comprising:

- extracting a plurality of queries from a plurality of query messages received from a plurality of users over the network;
- ~~determining a number of queries included in the plurality of queries;~~
- ~~associating a current sequence number with the plurality of queries;~~
- creating a first request message including the plurality of queries, a first sequence number, and state information describing each query ~~equal to the current sequence number and a first message count equal to the number of queries;~~
- sending the request message to a search engine;
- receiving a response message from the search engine, the response message including a plurality of replies, each reply generated in response to a query, a second sequence number, and state information describing each query ~~a second message count, a third sequence number and a third message count;~~
- creating a plurality of reply messages from the plurality of replies; and
- sending the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users over the network.

19-20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:

- determining a message latency associated with the first sequence number.

22. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

- updating a request timestamp based on the request message;
- updating a response timestamp based on the response message; and
- comparing the request timestamp and the response timestamp.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
updating the request timestamp based on the additional request message;

24. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a query count based on the request message;
updating a reply count based on the response message; and
comparing the query count and the reply count.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
updating the reply count based on the additional response message.

26. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a response count based on the response message.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, ~~a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero~~; and
updating a response count based on the additional response message.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the response message includes replies generated in response to the first sequence number and a third sequence number, the third sequence number identifying a subsequent request message created after the first request message.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein sending the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users comprises identifying a user associated with each query from which each reply message was generated using the state information.